

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/524,666	ACETI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	PHYLESHA L. DABNEY	2614	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) PHYLESHA L. DABNEY

(3) _____

(2) Atty. Meagher

(4) _____

Date of Interview: 22 February 2008.

Type: a) Telephonic b) Video Conference
c) Personal [copy given to: 1) applicant 2) applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) Yes e) No.

If Yes, brief description: _____

Claim(s) discussed: 1,21 and 22.

Identification of prior art discussed: _____

Agreement with respect to the claims f) was reached. g) was not reached. h) N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Attorney agreed to amend the claims in view of the response to arguments and allowable subject matter discussion presented in the office action dated 28 November 2007. See attached 3 pages.

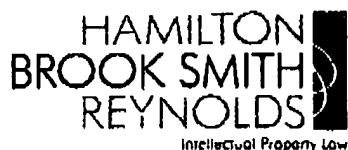
(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

/Phylesha L Dabney/

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

Examiner's signature, if required



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FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

Examiner: P. L. Dabney **Group:** 2614

Date: February 21, 2008

Client Code: 2506

Facsimile No.: 571-273-7494

From: Timothy J. Meagher, Esq.

Subject: Proposed Claim Amendments

Docket No.: 2506.1009-001

Application No.: 09/524,666

Filing Date: March 13, 2000

Number of pages including this cover sheet: 4

Please confirm receipt of facsimile: Yes No

Comments:

Attached are proposed claim amendments for discussion.

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TJM

Docket No.: 2506.1009-001
Application No. 09/524,666

PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENTS

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently amended) A modular hearing aid comprising:
a base unit adapted to contain any of a microphone, a receiver, a battery, electronics and controls, and wherein the base unit can be replaced after use; and
an earmold unit removably attached to the base unit, the earmold unit comprising a compliant material and having a shorter useful life than the useful life of the base unit, the earmold unit further comprising a retention mechanism for connection to the base unit such that the earmold unit can be connected to the base unit or removed from the base unit and replaced after use on a more frequent basis than the replacement of the base unit, the earmold unit adapted to contain both a battery and a hearing aid component non-removably integrated within the earmold unit, the hearing aid component comprising at least one of a receiver and hearing aid electronics.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously presented) A modular hearing aid comprising:
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a base unit adapted to contain any of a microphone, electronics and controls; and
an earmold unit removably attached to the base unit, the earmold unit comprising a compliant material, a retention mechanism for connection to the base unit such that the earmold unit can be connected to the base unit or removed from the base unit and replaced after use, and the earmold unit comprising both a battery and a receiver non-removably integrated with the earmold unit.

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5. (Previously presented) The modular hearing aid of Claim 4 wherein the earmold unit further comprises a shell non-removably integrated with the earmold unit, the shell housing the battery and the receiver.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Previously presented) The modular hearing aid of Claim 1 wherein the earmold unit forms an earmold tip for attachment to a distal end of the base unit.
9. (Withdrawn) The modular hearing aid of Claim 1 wherein the earmold unit forms an earmold sleeve for attachment to at least a portion of the base unit.
10. (Withdrawn) The modular hearing aid of Claim 1 wherein the earmold unit forms an earmold tip and an earmold sleeve for attachment to the base unit.
11. – 20. (Cancelled)
21. (Currently amended) A modular hearing aid comprising:
a base unit adapted to contain a microphone and electronics; and
an earmold comprising a compliant material, the earmold being non-removably integrated with both a battery and a receiver that are non-removable, the earmold having a flexible, mushroom shaped earmold tip adapted to create a seal with the bony portion of the ear canal, the earmold further comprising a retention mechanism for connection to the base unit such that the earmold can be connected to the base unit or removed from the base unit and replaced after use.
22. (Currently amended) A method for replacing an earmold of a modular hearing aid comprising the steps:
providing a modular hearing aid having a base unit and an earmold comprised of a compliant material and having a shorter useful life than the useful life of the base unit, the

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earmold adapted to contain both a battery and a receiver non-removably integrated within the earmold;

releasing a securing mechanism between the earmold and the base unit, the securing mechanism capable of being released by a user without the use of a separate tool or instrument;

removing the earmold from the base unit;

discarding the earmold;

placing a second earmold onto the base unit; and
attaching the securing mechanism.

23. - 63. (Cancelled)